GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5002
ANSWERED ON:19.04.2001
EXPLORATION OF ALTERNATIVE SOURCES TO REDUCE IMPORT OF OIL
CHANDRAKANT BHAURAO KHAIRE

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to explore alternate and non-conventional sources to reduce import of oil;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount spent on each source of alternate and non-conventional sources during the last one year;

(d) whether some sources of alternate and non-conventional have been identified in Maharashtra; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a) & (b)Yes Sir. The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is implementing a wide range of programme to harness the available potential of various non-conventional energy sources such as biogas, solar, wind, biomass, small hydro power and urban and industrial wastes. These provide alternate fuels for meeting the demand for cooking, heating and lighting for rural as well as urban areas and thereby save oil to some extent in the country. Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas also have undertaken three Pilot Projects to examine the environmental, operational and financial impact of blending of ethanol with Motor-Spirit.

(c)During the year 2000-2001, a total amount of Rs. 340.84 crores have been spent under various Non- Conventional Energy programmes out of which Rs. 146.75 crores was spent on power generation projects from Wind, Small Hydro Power, Biomass, Solar Energy and Urban and Industrial Wastes etc. Remaining amount was spent on various decentralized renewable energy programmes. Cost in respect of Ethanol Pilot Project will be worked out only after their completion.

(d) & (e) In the State of Maharashtra, the potentialof power generation from major Non-Conventional Energy Sources such as wind (3650 MW), bagasse based co-generation (1000 MW), small hydro power (599 MW) and energy from municipal and solid wastes (100 MW) have been estimated. In addition out of the three Ethanol Pilot Projects mentioned above, two are located in the state of Maharashtra.